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Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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WORLD COTTON PROSPECTS

SUMMARY

The trend of cotton prices has been downward since the middle of March. American cotton for the week ended April 25 was about 0.68 cents per pound lower than in the week ended March 21. At Liverpool prices of Egyptian Sakel and Uppers declined considerably more than prices of American cotton. These price declines reflect the recent declines in the stock market and in general business conditions and the failure of the earlier improvement in the cotton trade to be entirely maintained rather than developments in world production.

Sales of cotton cloth by American mills fell off in March from the high level of February, but were still well above the low levels of November and December. Production and shipments continued to increase slightly and stocks fell to the lowest levels since October, 1927. Unfilled orders decreased slightly but except for February they were the highest since the end of March, 1930.

The decline in prices in the past month has been accompanied by a decline in sales of cotton goods by Great Britain to the Orient. On the Continent of Europe spinner and weaver sales of cotton yarn and cloth in March showed little if any improvement over February and prices are keenly competitive. Spinning and weaving mill activity, however, seemed to have shown a slight improvement over February. In Japan and China conditions are favorable to the consumption of American cotton and as a result imports of American cotton are above last year. Mill activity is picking up some in Japan, and in China the mills continue to operate at or near full capacity without excessive accumulation of stocks.

In March the apparent supply of American cotton remaining in the United States decreased faster than it did in March 1930, due to larger exports for

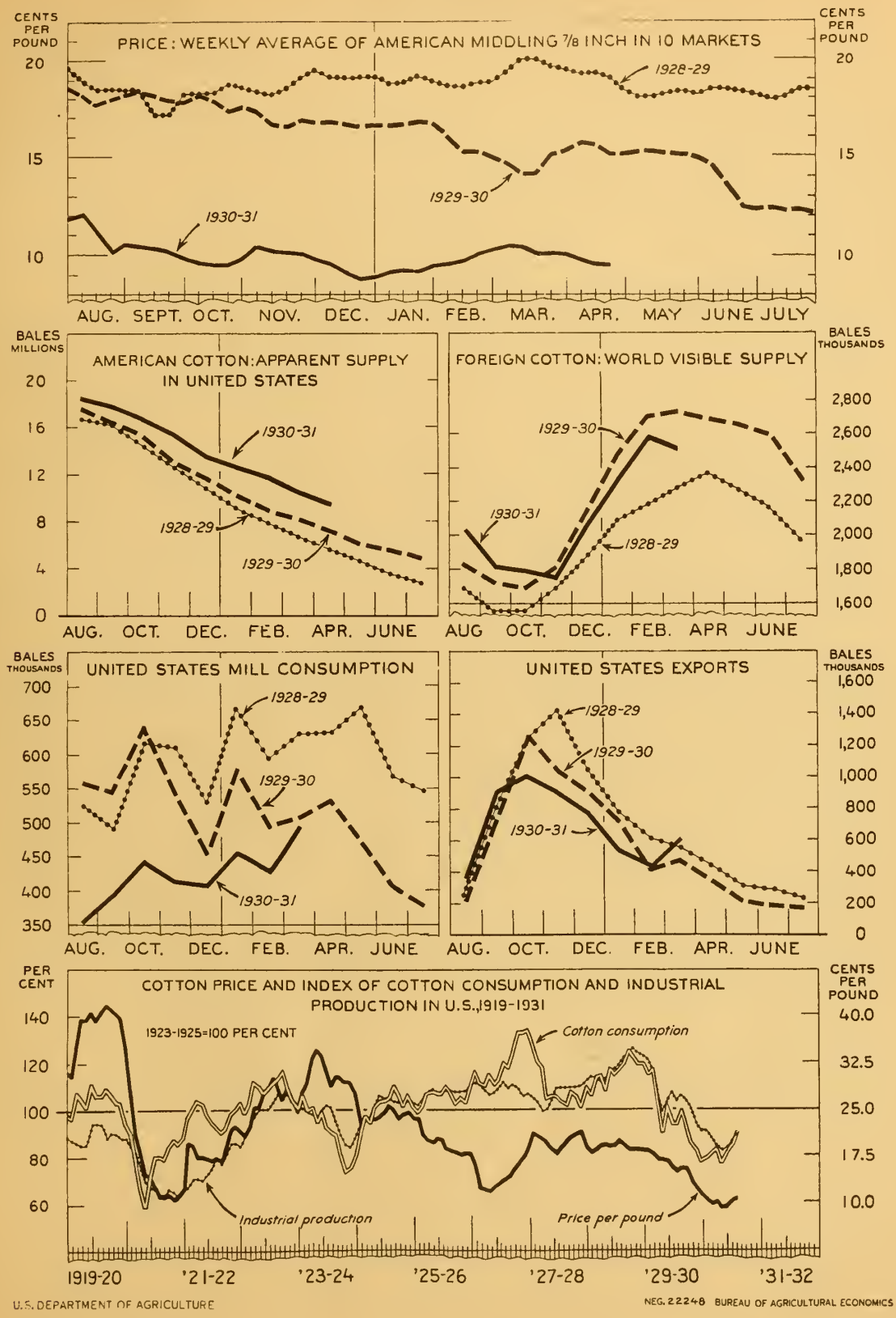
the month and almost as large a domestic consumption. Nevertheless, on April 1 the supply was still 2.4 million bales larger than it was a year earlier. Stocks of American cotton in European ports and afloat for Europe were about 300,000 bales larger in the middle of April than they were at that date last year. The world visible supply of foreign grown cottons was nearly 300,000 bales smaller in the middle of April than it was a year earlier.

Important developments have been taking place in world production. Recently it has been necessary to reduce the estimate of world production from 26.4 million bales to 25.5 million bales for 1930-31 compared with 26.3 million in 1929-30. A part of the reductions in production this year can be attributed to specific growing conditions, notably drought, that affect only this year's crop. To some extent, however, the reductions indicate that low prices are already influencing production. The greatest decrease in the 1930-31 world crop since the season began is in the United States. The highest official forecast of the 1930 crop was that of October which placed it at 14,486,000 bales. The December estimate was only 14,243,000 bales and the final ginnings report places the crop at 13,930,000 bales, 313,000 bales below the December estimate or 556,000 bales below the October forecast. The final report for the Indian crop places the crop area at 23,616,000 acres compared with a revised final estimate of 25,922,000 acres for the 1929-30 crop, and places production at 4,033,000 bales of 478 pounds compared with 4,289,000 bales officially estimated for last year. In this connection it is significant that stocks at Bombay on April 17 were 273,000 bales of 400 pounds less than a year earlier. Exports from all India for the period March 19 to April 16 are reported by the Commercial and Financial Chronicle at 179,000 bales less than for the corresponding period last year, however, so stocks are not now as low in comparison with last year as they were a month ago. In Egypt cotton acreage was increased from 1,913,000 acres in 1929-30 to 2,162,000 acres in 1930-31

and in October production was forecast at 1,743,000 bales as compared with 1,725,000 bales in 1929-30. The December report placed this year's crop at 1,697,000 bales but ginnings and receipts at Alexandria for the season to April 1 were both 16.9 per cent below last year so that a further downward revision will undoubtedly be necessary. In Anglo-Egyptian Sudan early indications pointed to an increase in production over last year and the December 1 estimate placed this year's crop at 171,000 bales. The April estimate reduces the crop to 113,000 bales, due mostly to damage from black arm and leaf curl, the latter a disease which has developed recently. In Brazil the coffee crisis favored the expansion of cotton production and this year's acreage is larger than last year's, but drought and weevil damage were severe in several provinces and the crop is now unofficially estimated at 400,000 bales compared with the official estimate of 550,000 bales last year. Low prices are believed to have been important in reducing the Brazilian crop even though Brazilian exchange rates have fallen to nearly 40 per cent below par, thus making prices received by Brazilian growers nominally more satisfactory than they are. Although these reductions have attracted little attention in view of present low consumption and accumulated stocks, they show the present trends in production and they reduce supplies by an amount that would be of very definite significance in time of favorable cotton consumption.

Some information is becoming available concerning the 1931-32 world cotton crops. Fertilizer tag sales in the South were 27.5 per cent lower in March this year than last, and for the four months December through March they were 31.5 per cent below last year. In Egypt it has been necessary to restrict the use of water and an acute shortage seems likely to develop by summer. Only meager information is available from Russia as efforts seem concentrated on the spring planting campaign by which an increased acreage is being sought. Prospects do not appear very satisfactory and transportation, labor and equipment shortages are being complained about. It must be recalled, however, that such complaints appeared to be part of the campaign of bringing about last year's increase in acreage.

THE COTTON PROSPECT



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Prices

Spots

United States markets - The average price of middling 7/8 inch cotton in the ten markets for the week ended April 24 was 9.46 cents per pound compared with 9.56 cents for the previous week and 10.14 cents for the week ended March 21. The sentiment during the period from December to March was that recovery from the depression would be rapid and that the acreage reduction would be large. Since then the feeling in the trade seems to be that the recovery may be slow or irregular and that the reduction in acreage may not be so great as anticipated earlier. During March the average price in the ten markets was 10.15 cents per pound compared with 10.12 cents in February, and 14.74 cents in March, 1930. The average price received by producers on March 15 was 9.6 cents per pound, 0.5 cent above February 15 and 4.2 cents below March 15, 1930.

Liverpool - At Liverpool the prices of spot cotton made net declines of 0.49 to 2.64 cents per pound for the most important growths traded in on that market from March 20 to April 17. The average decline for nine quotations was 1.05 cents per pound compared with a decline of 0.81 cents in the price of American middling 7/8 inch cotton at Liverpool during this period. The average of Indian Oomra and Sind declined 0.56 cents during this period, Egyptian Sakel 2.64 cents and Uppers 1.50 cents per pound.

Relative prices of competitive cotton at Bremen 1/ - The decline in prices of American cotton during the first part of March resulted in a relatively higher average price for Indian and Egyptian offerings. While this is true of the average price for the four types of Indian cotton: American Seed, Broach, Scindh and Oomra; developments in the prices of these varieties were not at all uniform. During the first part of March the low grades, Oomra No. 2 and Scindh, were relatively higher and the prices for the better cottons, Broach and American Seed, relatively lower than American. This may explain the preference accorded to better grades of Indian cotton over American cotton by continental markets during the first part of March. Egyptian uppers sold relatively higher than in February and proved to be somewhat neglected. Due to the relatively greater decline in Egyptian than in American middling 7/8 inch since March 20, the competitive position of uppers may have been improved.

1/ Based on report dated April 2, 1931, from Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Donald F. Christy at Berlin, supplemented by cable on April 11.

Stocks and movements

Apparent supply of American cotton in United States

On April 1 the apparent supply of American cotton remaining in the United States amounted to about 9.5 million bales. This was about 2.4 million bales above April 1, 1930 and 3.8 million bales above April 1, 1929. One month earlier the apparent supply was about 2.5 million bales above last year. This decrease in the difference between this year and last year during March was due to the fact that exports during March were about 128,000 bales above March, 1930 and consumption was only about 17,000 bales below March a year ago.

World visible supply

On April 17 the world visible supply of all cotton totaled 9,153,000 running bales, 2,206,000 bales above the corresponding date last season and 2,793,000 bales above that date in 1929, according to the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. Due to the continued lower rate of consumption this year than last the visible supply continues to increase relative to last year. On February 13, the total visible supply was 1.82 million bales above last year and on March 13 was 2.16 million above a year earlier.

The world visible supply of American cotton on April 17 was 6,589,000 bales, 2,394,000 bales above a year ago and 2,583,000 bales more than in 1929 at this time. The visible supply of foreign cotton on the other hand is below last year, the total on April 17 this year being 2,564,000 bales compared with 2,752,000 bales twelve months ago.

Stocks in consuming establishments, etc.

Stocks of raw cotton in consuming establishments at the end of March totaled 1,478,000 running bales, according to the report of the Bureau of the Census. This compares with 1,758,000 bales on hand one year earlier and was the lowest for the month since 1921. Stocks in public storage and at compresses on the other hand amounting to 3,643,000 bales on March 31, 1931 were 2,445,000 bales more than a year ago and compares with stocks of 5,253,000 bales at the end of March, 1921, which was the previous high for the month since 1916 when these records were first started.

Exports of domestic cotton

The total exports of domestic cotton for the season to the end of March amounted to 5,510,000 bales compared with 5,771,000 bales during the same period last season or only 261,000 bales below, according to the

reports of the Bureau of the Census. At the end of January exports for the season were 412,000 bales below last season. This decrease in the difference was due to the fact that exports in both February and March were above last year. During March exports amounted to 605,000 running bales compared with 453,000 bales during February, 526,000 bales during January, and 478,000 bales in March, 1930. Exports during March were the largest for the month since March, 1927. During the past five years exports in March have averaged only 12,000 bales above February, whereas this year exports in March were 172,000 bales above February. The greatest increase over February took place in exports to Japan, Germany and Italy. Exports to Japan for the season to date are again ahead of last season, as they were through September.

The pick up in exports during February and March was due to the upward movement in price and the more optimistic feeling throughout the world cotton trade during January and February.

Domestic imports of foreign cotton

Total imports of foreign cotton during March totaled about 10,000 bales compared with 28,000 bales in March, 1930. The total for the eight months ended March 31, 1931 was about 52,000 bales compared with 244,000 bales for the like period last season.

Exports from India and Egypt

Total exports from India from March 19 to April 16 amounted to 256,000 running bales compared with 433,000 bales during the corresponding period last year, according to the Commercial and Financial Chronicle. From August 1 to April 16, however, exports were 45,000 bales above last season.

From August 1 to April 15 this season exports from Alexandria totaled 646,876 running bales, 80,101 bales below the similar period in the 1929-30 season. Exports from Egypt to the Continent and to India for the season to April 15, however, amounted to about 452,000 bales compared with 374,000 bales during last season or an increase of about 58,000 bales.

Continental spinners' takings of American cotton

During the four weeks ended about March 20 there were only 210,000 bales of American cotton taken by continental spinners. This compares with 334,000 bales during the same period last season. The total takings for the season from August 1 to March 20 amounted to 2,338,000 bales compared with 2,986,000 bales during the same period last season.

Table 1.- Cotton, American: Continental spinners' takings, specified periods

Four weeks ended about	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
	1,000 bales of 478 lbs.	1,000 bales of 478 lbs.	1,000 bales of 478 lbs.	1,000 bales of 478 lbs.	1,000 bales of 478 lbs.
Aug. 1-Aug. 8	(62)	(89)	(131)	(121)	(52)
Sept. 5	317	431	295	232	231
Oct. 3	288	334	339	282	276
Oct. 31	457	421	427	332	323
Nov. 28	473	440	424	434	389
Dec. 26	544	475	436	415	313
Jan. 23	449	430	454	406	274
Feb. 20	680	440	361	380	320
Mar. 20	539	386	477	364	210
Total Aug. 1-Mar. 20	3,809	3,446	3,344	2,966	2,388
Apr. 17	463	401	332	304	
May 15	524	420	337	256	
June 12	443	361	417	245	
July 10	516	384	304	243	
July 31 1/	253	303	143	163	
Total	(6,008)	(5,315)	(4,877)	(4,177)	

1/ Three weeks.

Textile situation

World mill consumption six months ended January 31

The detailed report of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Association showing consumption by countries and types of cotton has been received since the March release of World Cotton Prospects. The following is a brief analysis of the report. For addition comparisons see Tables 2 to 13, in the appendix, pages 16 to 21.

World mill consumption of American cotton during the six months ended January 31, 1931 amounted to 5,278,000 running bales compared with 7,083,000 bales in the corresponding period last season. This decrease of 1,805,000 bales compared with a decrease of 2,038,000 bales in the consumption of all cotton and an increase of 28,000 bales in the consumption of Indian cotton during the first half of the present season compared with the same period last year. The greatest decline in the consumption of American cotton during this period took place in the United States and Great Britain, although consumption of American cotton on the Continent of Europe during the first half of the season was also considerably below last season. China was the only important country which consumed more American cotton during this period than during the corresponding period in 1929-30. The countries in which the consumption of Indian cotton showed an increase over the half year ended January, 1930 were France, China, Great Britain, India and some of the smaller European countries. The total world consumption for the four classes of cotton reported by the Federation for the six months ended January, 1931

in per cent of the consumption in the same period last season were American 74.5 per cent, East Indian 100.9 per cent, Egyptian 78.5 per cent, Sundries 94.2 per cent and total 84.6 per cent. These consumption reports indicate that during periods of depression there is a tendency for mills to consume a larger proportion of cheaper cotton than in years of prosperity. In case of the displacement of American cotton by Indian cotton it was due in part, no doubt, to the fact that the relative prices of the two growths was more favorable to the consumption of Indian during the latter period than during the first half of the 1929-30 season. These consumption reports include the same figures for Russian consumption as for the six months ended July 31, 1930 since no reports were received by the Federation for the past six months period.

United States

The domestic consumption of raw cotton during March amounted to 491,000 running bales compared with 434,000 bales during February and 508,000 bales during March 1930. During the past ten years consumption during March has averaged about 39,000 bales above February whereas the consumption during March this year was about 57,000 bales above February. The index of cotton consumption after adjusting for seasonal, increased from 84 per cent in February to 89 per cent in March. The index in March 1930 was 94. The total consumption in the United States for the eight months ended March 31, 1931 was 3,391,000 bales compared with 4,316,000 bales for the same period in 1929-30.

The production of standard cotton cloth increased 2.4 per cent during March on a weekly basis whereas during the previous three years production in March has averaged slightly below February. Some increase in production was to be expected following such increases in sales and shipments as took place during January and February. Unfilled orders increased 34.6 per cent and stocks decreased 12.5 per cent during these two months. Production is still being curtailed which together with an additional pick-up in shipments during March resulted in a further reduction of stocks, the decrease amounting to 14.3 per cent from the end of February to the end of March. This left the stocks on hand at the end of March the lowest since the end of October 1927. While the average weekly sales during March were lower than during either February or January they were still 8.7 per cent above March production.

Great Britain

Weekly cables from Great Britain during the past four weeks indicate that business between Lancashire and the Orient is again declining following a brief pick-up during early March, which came with the announcement of the ending of the Indian boycott. The decrease in business is probably due to a considerable extent to the feeling of uncertainty as to the trend of business and in part to the declining prices of raw cotton since early March. Total exports of piece goods to all countries during March amounted to 136.4 million square yards compared with 146.3 million square yards in February and 281.3 million yards in March 1930. During the past ten years exports of piece goods have averaged about 18.9 million yards over February. Total exports for the eight months ended March 31, 1931 amounted to about 1,159.8 million square yards. This compares with a total of 2,276.2 million square yards during the same period last season or a decrease of about 49 per cent.

Exports of yarns during March amounted to 10.8 million pounds compared with 9.3 million pounds in February and 12.7 million pounds in March 1930. The total for the season to the end of March was 85.0 million pounds, 19.1 million pounds or 18.3 per cent below the same period last season.

Continental Europe during March 1/

A significant decline in raw cotton prices accompanied by hesitancy on the part of buyers, featured in the continental market during March. The improved confidence, so apparent in February, had not been seriously disturbed up to the end of March, however, as is evidenced by the fact that set-backs in raw cotton prices were readily accepted as good opportunities for price fixing. The trade seemed to consider the market "well balanced", a term conveying the idea that present conditions justify neither significant advances nor important declines of raw cotton prices. At the beginning of April liquidation of May longs and professional selling, however, caused considerable uncertainty among the buyers.

The prices even in early April were considered reasonable and the advice to buy, or to fix prices on every decline, was quite generally circulated among continental spinners. Factors considered as having a favorable effect on the present situation are, more hopeful reports on the cotton mill and trade situation in the United States, improved raw takings on the part of Japan and China, low yarn and cloth stocks in important consuming regions and prospects for some increase in consumer and trade buying, at least in the second part of the year. On the other hand, the slight pick-up in American fertilizer sales and the unexpected growth in sales of Russian cotton at Liverpool this year have had a bearish effect upon trade sentiment. The semi-annual report of the Federation at Manchester was also considered depressing.

Total spinner and weaver sales of cotton yarn and cloth on the Continent showed little, if any, improvement over February. While a slight revival was evident in central Europe, there was no change in France, other western European countries and Italy. The existing keen competition in the yarn and cloth trade leaves spinners' margins rather small.

Spinning and weaving mill activity, on the Continent as a whole, seems to have shown a slight improvement over February, mostly as a result of the situation in central Europe where operations have been somewhat increased.

As might be expected, with weaker prices in raw cotton, spinner purchases of American and other cotton during March were considerably smaller than in the previous month. There was still interest at the beginning of March, particularly for Indian cotton. Purchases fell off sharply after that, however, and have remained quiet throughout the remainder of March. Spinner price fixing, however, was of good volume on every setback in New York. C.i.f. import purchases by merchants at Bremen were also reduced.

Germany

Cotton textile conditions in Germany show no significant change from a month ago. The present situation might be characterized as a hesitant maintenance of the slightly improved conditions recorded during February.

1/ Based on report dated April 2, 1931 from Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Donald F. Christy at Berlin, supplemented by cable on April 11.

Spinner sales of cotton and yarn have been somewhat larger, especially in the American section. Most of the increase, however, is in short term orders, which do not assure maintenance of improvement for the industry. Cotton weavers, notably those in Southern Germany, reported a pick-up in new orders but competition was very keen and prices were at rock bottom.

In view of the much reduced mill stocks, the recent improvement in sales of yarn and fabrics has led to a slight increase in mill activity during March. This is apparently somewhat in apposition to the efforts of the spinner cartel which went into effect on March 16. As suggested in our last report, however, the cartel was not set up as a strictly production reducing scheme, and in view of the fact that only about 50 per cent of all spindles are under cartel control, a slight increase in spinner takings for March is not surprising.

Except for a short period of activity early in March, spinner and importer buying at Bremen was much reduced as a result of the declining price tendency in the raw market. Any setbacks in the raw market, however, were used by spinners for price fixing on old contracts.

Czechoslovakia and Austria

Complaints of the low level of yarn and cloth sales continue in Czechoslovakia and Austria notwithstanding the continuance of a slight seasonal revival. Mill activity in both countries show significant declines ranging from 10 to 20 per cent below last year. Czechoslovakian weavers and spinners are seriously concerned about the trade policy situation. Sales to Hungary are cut off because of the tariff war existent since December 15, while the lack of concessions to the Czechoslovakian cotton industry in a new treaty with Yugoslavia and the expectation of the abolishment of the present trade treaty with Austria are also depressing factors. The proposed Tariff Union between Germany and Austria, unless joined by Czechoslovakia, would also be a serious handicap to the Czechoslovakian cotton weavers, but would at the same time promote the Austrian cotton yarn business with Germany.

France

France reported a quieter month. February improvement in sales of yarn and cloth gave way to a considerable hesitancy on the part of buyers, due to the weakening raw cotton market. While Normandy mills were in a relatively satisfactory position, restriction of mill activity was especially severe in the Vosgues and in Alsace. Mill activity continued at a reduced rate in Northern France. Spinner purchases of raw cotton during March were considerably below February, but setbacks in the cotton market still called for important price fixing.

Italy

No changes are reported for Italy, cotton mill conditions continuing rather unsatisfactory. Both spinning and weaving activity have been about 20 per cent below last year. Spinner purchases of raw cotton were again limited, and price fixing was only moderate. Supplies of raw cotton in spinners hands or bought for future delivery are small, however, being much below the past two years. While yarn stocks in spinning mills are above stocks at this

time last year, unfilled orders now on hand are considerably below those for the same date a year ago. Mill sales of yarn and cloth, registered a slight improvement during February but they were very low in the preceding months.

Poland

Poland reports that during February spinning mills increased operations, although sales of yarn were unsatisfactory and mill stocks were rising. The increase in operations was again reported as resulting from the efforts of the large mills to force outsiders into the cartel, the existence of which they hope to renew for a period of three years. To date all negotiations to re-establish the cartel have failed, and the Government is considering the issuance of a decree, or the passage of legislation, prescribing a compulsory production cartel for cotton spinners. Spinner demand for raw cotton remained limited.

Russia

As has previously been indicated, prospects for importation of American cotton into USSR are very poor. A recent statement of the chairman of the Textile Union to the effect that no cotton will be imported from the United States during the current season, merely confirms previous reports. At the same time, some 120,000 bales of cotton from Soviet Russia are reported to have been sold at Liverpool this season compared with only about 7,000 bales a year ago. The quality of the cotton is reported as similar to that of good grade Texas cotton. Some trial purchases of Russian cotton have also been made by Polish cotton mills which, prior to the war, were good consumers of Caucasian and Central Asiatic cotton.

Japan

Conditions in Japan during late March continued favorable for the consumption of American cotton and demand for higher count yarns (30s and above) was good, according to a report from Consul Dickover at Kobe. As a result the arrivals of American cotton which had been light promised to increase considerably in view of the large shipments afloat at that time which were reported to have been about 250,000 bales. This large shipment of American together with 230,000 bales of Indian cotton afloat for Japan gave promise of not only building up low stocks but of creating sufficient stocks to cause spot prices at least for American to go below replacement prices. This has happened in the past, but has been usually of short duration. Visible stocks of all cotton at the end of February totaled 315,000 bales compared with 412,000 bales a year earlier.

Due to the artificial scarcity produced by the curtailed output, good domestic demand and some manipulation, yarn prices have continued high and spinning operations have been very profitable. Spinners were sold forward into July and August. The new curtailment vote which was to go into effect April 1 reduced the nominal rate from about 34 per cent to 30.8 per cent. The prospects are that the curtailment agreement will be reduced to 27.2 per cent effective July 1. During January and February Japan imported 20,000 bales of Chinese yarn, but prices were not so favorable in late March for a continuation of yarn imports.

China

There has been a firm demand and a larger outlet for high count yarns recently in China, according to a cable from Agricultural Commissioner Nyhus at Shanghai received April 13. This has resulted in several Chinese mills returning to the spinning of high count yarns after a period of spinning only low counts. Yarn prices have been somewhat low in relation to the price of native cotton, and prices of Indian cotton have been too high to make normal business possible, consequently a good business was being done in American cotton.

Although Chinese mills complain of unprofitable operations and slow forward orders, active operations continued, their output was being forwarded and there was no excessive accumulation of yarn stocks. The Japanese mills, on the other hand, continued to be sold out well forward.

Production, acreage and crop condition reports

Estimated world cotton crop for 1930-31 reduced

The world cotton crop for the 1930-31 season is likely to be about 25,500,000 bales of 478 pounds net compared with 26,300,000 bales in 1929-30. In the United States the ginnings totaled 13,930,000 bales, a decrease of 313,000 bales under the estimate in December and 898,000 bales less than the final estimate of last year's crop.

In most of the principal foreign cotton producing countries recent estimates are considerably below earlier estimates for this season and are, in many cases, less than the estimates at this time last season or the final estimate for last year. In India the final estimate of 4,033,000 bales is 256,000 bales lower than the revised final estimate for last season. In Egypt the latest official estimate of 1,697,000 bales is 26,000 bales less than last year's final estimate and 46,000 bales below the earlier estimate for this season. When the relationship between the ginnings to April 1 and the final estimate of the past two seasons are compared with the ginnings to April 1 of this season, the indications are that this year's estimate may still be too high. The estimate of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan crop was also recently reduced from 171,000 to 113,000 bales.

In Mexico prospects are that the present crop will be at least 77,000 bales less than last season's while the Brazilian crop is expected to decrease from 550,000 bales to 400,000 bales and the Peruvian crop is expected to be about 10 per cent less than last year. It is probable that a reliable estimate of the Chinese crop will not be available until summer, according to Agricultural Attache Nyhus at Shanghai, but he stated earlier in the season that the indications might be for a larger crop on the whole, although in some sections the crop is expected to be smaller than last year.

United States

Quality of the 1930 crop - The 1930 crop in the United States was of considerably better quality than the 1929 crop as has been shown by the grade and staple reports which have been released. The report for the total crop

which was released April 17 shows that 84.6 per cent of the crop was tenderable on futures contract whereas only 75.7 per cent of the 1929 crop was tenderable. Only 2.0 per cent of the crop was untenderable in grade this year compared with 4.1 per cent last year. The greatest improvement in quality was in the staple length. In 1929 the per cent of the crop which was untenderable because of staple amounted to 18.3 per cent whereas this year there was only 12.8 per cent untenderable in staple. Of the 1930 crop 24.9 per cent was 15/16 inch to 31/32 inch in staple length. Only 18.9 per cent of the 1929 crop fell in this group.

Fertilizer tag sales - The sale of fertilizer in the cotton belt is given considerable attention at this time of year because of its relation to acreage and the influence it has on yields in some States. On the average tag sales during the four months December through March represent about 66 per cent of the seasons sales and sales in April about 20 per cent of the total. For the four months ended March 31, 1931 tag sales in the South were only 68.5 per cent of the sales during the same period last season. Sales during March were 72.5 per cent of March 1930.

Ginnings low in Egypt - Ginnings of all cotton in Egypt for the season to April 1 amounted to 1,292,000 bales of 478 pounds net, according to a cable received by the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. This further substantiates the evidence presented last month, that the official estimate of the Egyptian cotton crop was too high. The Egyptian Government's December estimate placed the crop at 1,697,000 bales for 1930-31 compared with 1,725,000 bales in 1929-30 and 1,672,000 bales in 1928-29. The ginnings to April 1, however, showed a decrease of 262,000 bales or 16.9 per cent from those for the corresponding period last year and a decrease of 212,000 bales of 14.1 per cent under ginnings to April 1, 1929. Ginnings to March 1 this year were 15 per cent below those to March 1 a year ago.

Of the total ginnings to April 1, 1931, 326,000 bales were of the Sakellaridis variety. The ginnings of Sakellaridis cotton were down 163,000 bales or 33-1/3 per cent from those to April 1, 1930, and were 30.6 per cent or 144,000 bales below those to April 1, 1929. Ginnings of other varieties amounted to 966,000 bales which is a decrease of 9.3 per cent or 99,000 bales from those to April 1, 1930 and a decrease of 6.5 per cent or 67,000 bales from those to April 1, 1929.

Substantiating the decrease in ginnings of 16.9 per cent from those of last year there has been an equal decrease in the receipts of cotton at Alexandria.

Both last year and the year before ginnings to April 1 amounted to 90 per cent of the final production estimate. This year ginnings to April 1 amounted to only 76 per cent of the December estimate.

Acute water shortage in Egypt for 1931-32 crop - With the planting of the 1931-32 Egyptian cotton crop well along, there is every indication of a real summer water shortage, according to Cotton Specialist P. K. Norris at Cairo. A cable dated April 8 stated that, effective May 1, there would be increased restrictions on the use of water on cotton lands in lower and middle Egypt, and that rice growing had been prohibited in those areas. As early as March 16 certain water restrictions were already in operation. At that

time the fields were being watered for 6 days, with the ditches closed for 15-day intervals instead of the 6-day intervals practiced in years of good water supply. The water conservation program was started very early in the season. Storage dams were practically full in March, but the rate of inflow was even then regarded as below the spring planting requirements.

The 1931-32 season so far has been regarded as a "poor Nile" season resembling those of 1922-23 and 1923-24, Mr. Norris reports. In those two years the yield per acre averaged 360 pounds whereas during the three seasons 1927-28 to 1929-30 the yield averaged about 419 pounds per acre. The Nile has been low all winter. Apparently the annual Abyssinian floods were too light to keep the head waters of the Nile in good volume. The current situation is reviving interest in the completion of a dam south of Khartoum begun several years ago. The importance of cotton in Egyptian national economy will insure that crop first consideration in the distribution of available water this season. Ordinarily there is no restriction upon the growing of rice, which uses much more water than does cotton per acre, and is regarded as less important.

Anglo-Egyptian Sudan

On April 2, a revised official estimate of the 1930-31 Sudan crop was released which showed a reduction in the estimate of 58,000 bales, the December 1 estimate was 171,000 bales of 478 pounds net and the latest estimate is 113,000 bales. This is 29,000 bales below the final estimate for last season's crop. According to Cotton Specialist P.K. Norris who has recently completed an extended trip through the Sudan the reduction is due largely to the damage done by the leaf curl and black arm. The greatest damage was done in the Gezira district. The March 1 estimate for this district was 123,000 bales, but the indications are now that the crop in the Gezira province may reach about 65,000 bales, half of which has already been picked. Black arm is of long standing in Gezira while leaf curl is new and widespread, Mr. Norris reports. The leaves and branches half way up the plants have been destroyed by the black arm and the producers are not able to control it.

The Tokar area which is usually next to Gezira in cotton production is expected to produce only about 9,300 bales this year, this area also being infected with leaf curl. The third largest cotton area is around Kassala where the crop will not exceed 10,400 bales to 11,400 bales.

Russia

With the attention of the local correspondents in the cotton regions concentrated on the approaching spring planting campaign, reports on the development of Russian cotton procurings have not appeared in the Russian press of late. The large acreage increase planned for cotton this year necessitates the concentration of all forces on the preparation for this campaign. Prospects are not very satisfactory, however, in most of the important cotton producing regions of the Union. Slow transportation of sowing material and grain are greatly complained of, while a shortage of feedstuffs, of fuel for tractors and of qualified workers is also reported.

Ploughing for the cotton planting campaign began over practically all of Middle Asia around March 20. Trial plantings were reported at some points and plantings are expected to develop on a larger scale at the beginning of April. Timely seeding is greatly urged in view of the fact that, according to past experience, best yields are harvested off fields planted around April 15, whereas a delay of a month sometimes causes considerable reduction in the yield.

Table 2.-Europe 1/ : Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	2,220	1,660	382	329	198	126	617	43	3,417	2,158
1921-22	2,793	3,097	419	463	256	290	498	418	3,966	4,268
1922-23	2,944	2,339	518	586	313	348	501	466	4,276	3,739
1923-24	2,371	2,524	668	780	405	418	482	400	3,926	4,122
1924-25	2,961	3,392	641	650	414	367	525	648	4,541	5,057
1925-26	3,372	2,915	674	557	352	373	908	1,081	5,306	4,926
1926-27	3,327	3,547	523	414	374	384	901	1,092	5,125	5,437
1927-28	3,791	3,301	489	594	379	373	866	1,167	5,525	5,435
1928-29	3,480	3,044	657	676	392	374	1,014	1,275	5,543	5,369
1929-30	3,071	2,458	785	778	384	332	1,280	1,266	5,520	4,834
1930-31	2,182		787		310		1,303		4,582	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.
1/ Includes Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Spain, Poland, Switzerland, Holland, Austria, Sweden, Portugal, Finland, Hungary, Denmark and Norway.

Table 3.-Asia 1/: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931.

Season beginning Aug. 1	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	274	317	1,516	1,599	8	11	39	416	1,836	2,344
1921-22	486	545	1,932	2,101	16	22	477	503	2,911	3,171
1922-23	487	372	2,198	2,078	21	19	663	599	3,369	3,068
1923-24	316	345	2,083	1,839	17	22	611	740	3,027	2,946
1924-25	333	439	2,047	2,118	26	23	748	775	3,154	3,355
1925-26	431	581	2,076	2,197	18	24	671	637	3,196	3,439
1926-27	686	1,070	2,268	1,935	27	24	724	638	3,705	3,667
1927-28	840	673	1,784	1,605	22	21	593	1,053	3,239	3,352
1928-29	670	761	1,877	1,889	20	23	697	783	3,264	3,456
1929-30	728	699	2,156	2,247	27	31	890	935	3,801	3,912
1930-31	602		2,185		35		839		3,661	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.
1/ Mill consumption in India, Japan and China.

Table 4.-America 1/: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	2,291	2,523	5	6	60	53	103	266	2,459	2,848
1921-22	2,967	2,854	6	5	83	74	312	361	3,368	3,294
1922-23	3,228	3,290	8	13	77	105	384	500	3,697	3,908
1923-24	3,022	2,502	12	15	78	73	304	286	3,416	2,876
1924-25	2,876	3,187	16	16	56	73	423	367	3,371	3,643
1925-26	3,151	3,230	18	12	67	74	506	552	3,742	3,868
1926-27	3,373	3,702	13	15	78	90	321	371	3,785	4,178
1927-28	3,559	3,171	15	12	81	67	427	377	4,082	3,627
1928-29	3,408	3,598	10	25	78	87	362	329	3,858	4,039
1929-30	3,250	2,750	31	30	85	65	385	295	3,749	3,140
1930-31	2,468		22		40		270		2,800	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

1/ Includes United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil

Table 5.-Great Britain: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	1,091	587	23	16	152	85	46	24	1,312	712
1921-22	1,107	1,168	27	27	168	168	74	125	1,376	1,488
1922-23	1,096	823	39	68	184	209	184	164	1,506	1,264
1923-24	845	850	97	104	235	234	200	153	1,377	1,341
1924-25	1,092	1,252	86	97	233	198	152	125	1,563	1,672
1925-26	1,156	937	95	73	191	200	204	166	1,646	1,376
1926-27	940	1,137	48	34	186	185	242	240	1,416	1,594
1927-28	1,027	922	47	74	172	186	275	201	1,521	1,383
1928-29	971	939	92	91	191	174	186	156	1,440	1,360
1929-30	880	594	100	88	167	134	268	234	1,415	1,050
1930-31	493		131		113		239		976	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

Table 6-.Germany: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	272	372	102	103	9	14	20	5	403	494
1921-22	442	469	109	110	21	20	11	10	583	609
1922-23	448	336	126	94	21	16	12	9	607	455
1923-24	272	424	85	123	19	27	12	10	388	584
1924-25	420	496	106	108	26	31	16	8	568	643
1925-26	479	405	132	72	24	19	12	5	647	501
1926-27	565	649	94	78	31	36	12	13	702	776
1927-28	677	599	95	117	34	29	18	16	824	761
1928-29	550	474	122	130	36	34	16	16	724	654
1929-30	468	455	144	127	38	40	26	25	676	647
1930-31	364		116		36		40		556	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufactures' Associations.

Table 7.France: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	314	269	34	35	25	17	22	9	395	330
1921-22	349	450	41	78	29	45	15	28	434	601
1922-23	400	390	74	96	46	47	31	95	551	628
1923-24	358	342	106	92	46	57	33	29	543	520
1924-25	376	430	77	83	59	48	21	28	533	589
1925-26	411	424	70	93	50	56	36	39	567	612
1926-27	419	406	91	68	51	49	64	34	625	557
1927-28	407	422	78	102	49	46	41	35	575	605
1928-29	419	405	105	112	47	59	42	38	613	614
1929-30	380	348	100	124	65	53	44	57	589	582
1930-31	371		121		49		54		595	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

Table 8.- China 1/: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
1921-22	37	95	186	214	1	1	515	450	739	760
1922-23	73	37	171	186	3	1	623	515	870	739
1923-24	31	47	140	191	-	-	542	620	713	858
1924-25	31	40	145	195	-	-	590	609	766	844
1925-26	46	74	266	222	1	-	597	549	910	845
1926-27	113	161	258	201	1	-	628	558	1,000	920
1927-28	151	146	108	200	1	-	509	901	769	1,247
1928-29	121	158	218	180	-	-	605	675	944	1,013
1929-30	130	162	199	264	1	2	763	776	1,093	1,204
1930-31	164		278		3		735		1,180	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.
1/ Mill consumption only.

Table 9.- Japan: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1.	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	337	285	723	693	7	9	46	22	1,113	1,009
1921-22	365	431	695	785	12	14	40	30	1,112	1,260
1922-23	393	330	845	877	14	17	51	69	1,283	1,293
1923-24	282	297	822	732	15	21	55	113	1,174	1,163
1924-25	296	393	751	727	20	19	114	139	1,181	1,278
1925-26	383	499	881	889	16	19	64	65	1,344	1,472
1926-27	513	619	840	716	23	23	67	50	1,443	1,408
1927-28	572	506	676	565	19	20	55	128	1,322	1,219
1928-29	522	578	737	751	19	21	63	75	1,341	1,425
1929-30	573	519	870	827	22	20	79	87	1,544	1,453
1930-31	426		755		15		45		1,241	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

Table 10- India 1/: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1.	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	1	26	1,109	1,079	2	4	2	20	1,114	1,129
1921-22	35	19	1,105	1,102	3	7	20	23	1,163	1,151
1922-23	21	5	1,182	1,015	4	1	9	15	1,216	1,036
1923-24	3	1	1,121	916	2	1	14	7	1,140	925
1924-25	6	6	1,151	1,196	6	4	44	27	1,207	1,233
1925-26	2	8	929	1,086	1	5	10	23	942	1,122
1926-27	60	290	1,170	1,018	3	1	29	30	1,262	1,339
1927-28	117	21	1,000	840	2	1	29	24	1,148	886
1928-29	27	25	922	958	1	2	29	33	979	1,018
1929-30	25	18	1,087	1,156	4	9	48	72	1,164	1,255
1930-31	12		1,152		17		59		1,240	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.
1/ Mill consumption only.

Table 11- Italy: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1.	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	302	260	111	97	12	8	4	1	429	366
1921-22	264	309	101	99	8	14	2	3	375	425
1922-23	327	274	108	131	20	24	5	4	460	433
1923-24	281	266	136	178	33	33	6	9	456	486
1924-25	293	346	149	139	26	28	10	11	478	524
1925-26	355	357	134	120	22	28	10	11	521	516
1926-27	342	338	106	78	25	24	11	8	484	448
1927-28	342	365	81	98	24	24	8	12	455	499
1928-29	372	373	111	114	25	28	10	9	518	524
1929-30	355	309	133	128	30	22	15	9	533	468
1930-31	240		120		22		11		393	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

Table 12- Russia: Cotton consumption by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Season beginning Aug. 1.	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July 31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21					1	2	520	250	521	252
1921-22	3	24			3	4	366	229	372	257
1922-23	61	61			1	1	234	151	296	213
1923-24	81	131			19	10	194	162	294	303
1924-25	159	150			20	20	293	442	472	612
1925-26	214	59		1	23	24	610	821	847	905
1926-27	267	123			30	31	524	762	821	916
1927-28	376	117			37	34	466	834	879	985
1928-29	317	73			36	23	705	998	1,058	1,094
1929-30	231	52	52	61	27	25	816	845	1,126	983
1930-31 1/	52		61		25		845		983	

Compiled from reports of International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

1/ No returns received; these figures are the same as for the preceding half year.

Table 13- World mill consumption of cotton by growths, half years, 1920-21 to January 31, 1931

Seasons beginning Aug. 1.	American		East Indian		Egyptian		Sundries		Total	
	Half year ended									
	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31	Jan.31	July31
	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales	1,000 running bales
1920-21	5,159	4,871	2,155	2,244	387	222	1,493	1,004	9,194	8,401
1921-22	6,251	6,506	2,357	2,569	362	386	1,308	1,428	10,278	10,889
1922-23	6,662	6,004	2,724	2,678	418	480	1,580	1,597	11,384	10,759
1923-24	5,712	5,395	2,768	2,641	507	521	1,428	1,458	10,415	10,015
1924-25	6,207	7,049	2,752	2,789	500	470	1,729	1,818	11,168	12,126
1925-26	6,974	6,756	2,735	2,787	444	477	2,135	2,323	12,338	12,343
1926-27	7,423	8,357	2,818	2,378	487	506	2,001	2,171	12,729	13,412
1927-28	8,226	7,181	2,303	2,220	489	467	1,969	2,685	12,987	12,553
1928-29	7,613	7,463	2,574	2,604	497	492	2,184	2,455	12,868	13,014
1929-30	7,083	5,940	2,985	3,102	502	435	2,632	2,530	13,202	12,007
1930-31	5,278		3,013		394		2,479		11,164	

Compiled from reports of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations.

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